

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of the application are respectfully requested in view of the amendments and remarks herewith, which place the application into condition for allowance. The present amendment is being made to facilitate prosecution of the application.

I. STATUS OF THE CLAIMS AND FORMAL MATTERS

Claims 1-8, 10-20, and 22-26 are pending in this application and are hereby amended. Claims 1 and 4 are independent. Claims 9 and 21 are hereby canceled.

The Office Action indicated that claims 9-12 and 21 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Independent claims 1 has been rewritten to include all the limitations of claim 9 and independent claim 4 has been rewritten to include all the limitations of claim 21.

Therefore, Claims 1 and 4 are believed to be in condition for allowance.

Claims 1, 3-7, 9, 14-18, and 22 were objected to due to informalities. These claims are hereby amended, obviating the objection to these claims.

II. DEPENDENT CLAIMS

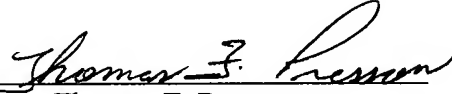
The other claims in this application are each dependent from one of the independent claims discussed above and are therefore believed patentable for at least the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual reconsideration of the patentability of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

Please charge any additional fees that may be needed, and credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 50-0320.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is believed that all of the claims in this application are patentable and Applicants respectfully request early passage to issue of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,
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